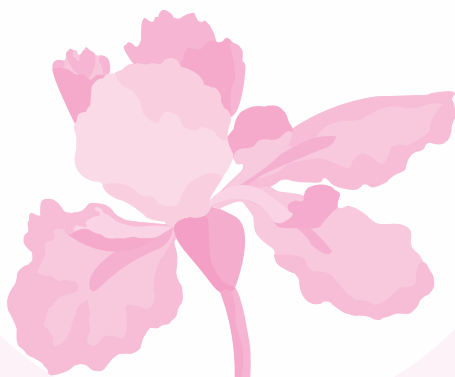
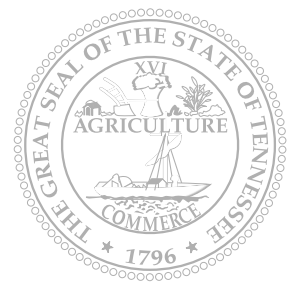


Parents' Guide to Understanding TCAP Achievement Test Results

2003–2004



44914



Tennessee Department of Education
Evaluation and Assessment Division

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INTRODUCTION

Each spring, Tennessee students in Grades 3–8 take the TCAP Achievement Test. This test measures a student's academic knowledge and skills in mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and social studies. The TCAP Achievement Test contains multiple-choice questions and has set time limits. There is no passing or failing score on the test.

The TCAP Achievement Test provides two types of information on student performance:

- ◆ Norm-referenced Test Scores

Norm-referenced test scores show how well Tennessee students do in comparison to a national group of students who took the same test items.

- ◆ Criterion-referenced Test Scores

In addition to the norm-referenced portion of the TCAP Achievement Test, students are also administered a criterion-referenced portion that is required by the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. For additional information about the No Child Left Behind Act, visit the NCLB web page at <http://www.ed.gov/parents>.

Criterion-referenced test scores are used to measure how well a student has learned Tennessee's state curriculum rather than how the student compares with a national group. Criterion-referenced scores are also used to identify student areas of strength or need. For additional information on the Tennessee curriculum and what your child should be learning at his or her grade level, visit the Teaching and Learning web page at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci>.

Described in this guide are the types of individual student reports that are available for school districts, schools, and parents. These reports include the Norm-referenced Individual Profile Report, Home Report, and Criterion-referenced Individual Profile Report.

If after reading this guide you have additional questions about the TCAP Achievement Test, contact

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or

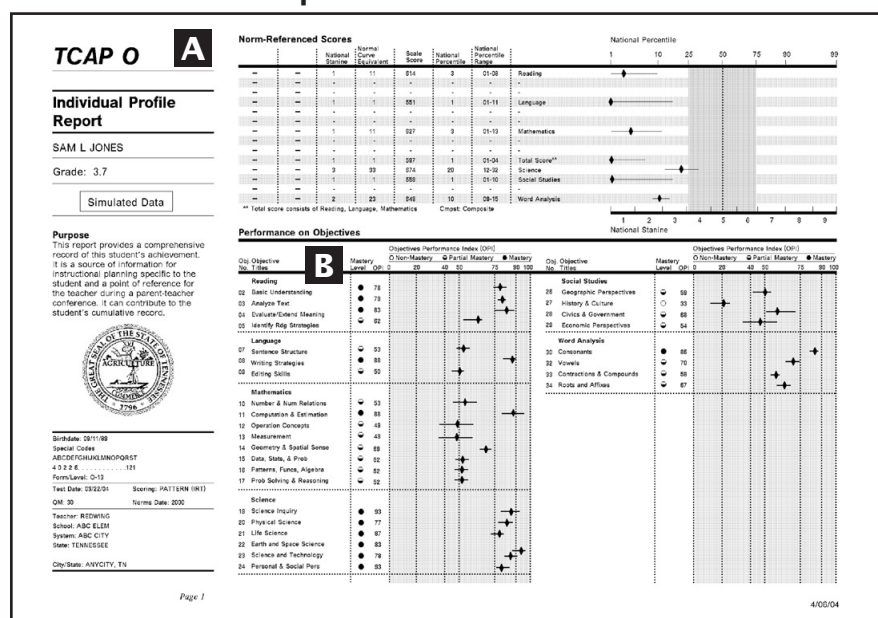
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Malinda.Tuttle@state.tn.us

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For additional information about the TCAP Achievement Test Program, visit the TCAP Achievement Test web page at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/mttest.htm>.

NORM-REFERENCED REPORTS

Individual Profile Report



Individual Profile Report

A

The top part of the Individual Profile Report shows how your student compares to a national group of students who took the same test items. The norm-referenced results are presented in the following scores:

National Stanine: The National Stanine shows your student's scores using a scale that ranges from 1–9. Scores 1–3 are Below Average, 4–6 are Average, and 7–9 are Above Average.

Normal Curve Equivalent: The Normal Curve Equivalent shows your student's scores using a scale that ranges from 1–99. Scores from 1–34 are Below Average, 35–65 are Average, and 66–99 are Above Average.

Scale Score: The Scale Score ranges from 1–999. These scores are the basis for all other norm-referenced scores, such as the National Stanine and Normal Curve Equivalent. Scale Score ranges for Below Average, Average, and Above Average are different for each grade level and content area tested.

National Percentile: The National Percentile is the percentage of students in the national group that your student scored higher than on the test items. For example, a National Percentile score of 75 means that a student scored better than 75% of the students in the national group who took the same test items.

National Percentile Range: Because the norm-referenced scores show how your student performed against a national group during this single TCAP Achievement Test administration, the National Percentile Range shows where your student might likely score if he or she were to take the test items multiple times.

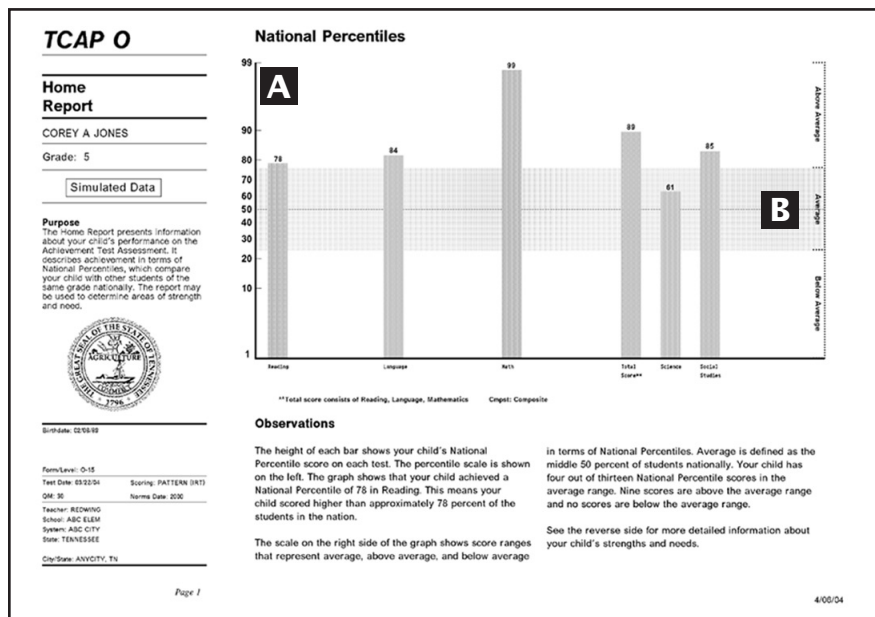
National Percentile/National Stanine Graph: This graph represents the National Percentile and National Stanine scores. The diamond indicates your student's score, and the lines on the sides of the diamond are the National Percentile Range. The shaded area in the middle of the graph indicates the Average range.

B

Objective Performance Index: The Objective Performance Index is an estimate of the number of items your student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 similar items on the test. Scores between 0–49 are considered Non-Mastery; scores between 50–74 are considered Partial Mastery; and scores 75 and above are considered Mastery.

Objectives Performance Graph: This graph represents your student's Objective Performance Index score. The diamond indicates your student's score, and the lines on the sides of the diamond are the range in which your student might likely score if he or she were to take the test items multiple times.

Home Report



Home Report

A The Home Report uses shaded bars to represent your student's National Percentile score in each of the content areas measured on the TCAP Achievement Test. The National Percentile score is the percentage of students in the national group that your student scored higher than on the test items. For example, a National Percentile score of 50 means that a student scored better than 50% of the students in the national group who took the same test items. The height of each bar is determined by your student's score—the higher the bar, the better your student scored on that content area.

B The right side of the graph indicates where student scores are considered to be Below Average, Average, and Above Average.

Home Report, Page 2

Page 2 of the Home Report also provides written information on your student's areas of strengths and needs as they relate to performance on the TCAP Achievement Test.

TCAP

Home Report

COREY A JONES

Grade: 5

Simulated Data

Purpose
This page of the Home Report presents information about your child's areas of strength and need. This information is provided to help you monitor your child's academic growth.

Birthdate: 02/08/99

Form Level: 0-15
Test Date: 03/23/04 Scoring: PATTERN (RT)
OM: 31 Norms Date: 1996

Teacher: REDWING
School: ABC ELEM
System: ABC CITY
State: TENNESSEE

Strengths

Reading
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Vocabulary
● Word Meaning

Language
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Language Mechanics
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Mathematics
● Computation and Numerical Estimation
● Number and Number Relations
Math Computation
● Add Whole Numbers

Science
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Social Studies
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Spelling
Based on these results no strengths were identified.

Word Analysis
● Consonants/Singles, Blends, Digraphs

Key ● Mastery

Needs

Reading
○ Basic Understanding
○ Analyze Text

Vocabulary
○ Words in Context
● Multimeaning Words

Language
○ Sentence Structure
○ Writing Strategies

Language Mechanics
○ Writing Conventions
● Sentences, Phrases, Clauses

Mathematics
○ Problem Solving and Reasoning
○ Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

Math Computation
○ Divide Whole Numbers
○ Multiple Whole Numbers

Science
○ Science Inquiry
○ Earth and Space Science

Social Studies
○ Economic Perspectives
● Civics and Government Perspectives

Spelling
○ Structural Units
● Consonants

Word Analysis
○ Roots and Affixes
● Vowels

Key ○ Partial Mastery ○ Non-Mastery

